

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

**I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ernest J. Beffel (Reg. No. 43,489) on 05/06/2009.

**The application has been amended as follows:**

**In the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

1-13. (Cancelled)

Art Unit: 2176

14. (Currently amended) A method of extending a definition of a first tag used in a first electronic document, wherein the first electronic document is encoded in a markup language, and the first electronic document is stored on a server in a computer network, the method comprising:

defining the first tag in a first schema, wherein the definition of the first tag includes a plurality of elements from the markup language;

defining a second tag in a second schema, wherein a definition of the second tag includes

a reference to the first tag in the first schema, wherein the reference ~~that~~ identifies the first tag as being extended; and

an additional element from the markup language; and

providing references for locating the first schema and second schema in a second ~~the first~~ electronic document, wherein the second tag is polymorphically used to encode text within the second ~~the first~~ electronic document~~[[,]]~~;

whereby the first and second schemas respectively allow use of the first or second tag and applications and document types that use the first or second tag can evolve separately;

wherein the markup language is XML.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

parsing the first electronic document, wherein the first electronic document is parsed by a

Art Unit: 2176

parser for the markup language, the parser being stored on the server.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 14, wherein the first electronic document corresponds to at least one of a purchase order, a purchase order acknowledgement, an order status check, an availability check, a price check, an invoice, an invoice acknowledgement.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~[[20]]~~ 14, further comprising: parsing the second electronic document, wherein the second electronic document is parsed by a parser for the markup language, the parser being stored on the server.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 21, wherein the second electronic document corresponds to a commercial transaction.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the commercial transaction is selected from the group consisting of a purchase order, a purchase order

Art Unit: 2176

acknowledgement, an order status check, an availability check, a price check, an invoice, an invoice acknowledgement.

25. (Currently amended) A computer network system including at least one processor for processing a document instance of a markup language, the computer network system comprising:

means for defining a first tag, including a plurality of elements from a markup language, in a first schema in the computer network system;

means for polymorphically extending a definition of the first tag by use of a second schema residing on the computer network system, the second schema defining a second tag by reference to the first tag that incorporates in the second schema the plurality of elements from the markup language and by including additional elements, including using the second tag in a location otherwise used by the first tag in the document instance; and

means for importing reference to the second schema into the document instance;

wherein the markup language is XML.

26- 35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) A method of extending a definition of a first tag used in a first electronic document, wherein the first electronic document is encoded in a markup language, and the first electronic document is stored on a server in a computer network, the method comprising:

defining the first tag in a first schema, wherein a definition of the first tag includes plurality of elements from the markup language; and

defining a second tag in a second schema, wherein a definition of the second tag includes a reference to the first tag and an additional element tag from the markup language; and

providing references for locating the first schema and second schema in the first electronic document, wherein the first and second tags are polymorphically available to encode text within the first electronic document;

whereby an application designed to work with the first tag in the first schema can process the text encoded using the second tag in the second schema, when the encoding is within the scope of the first tag, without modifying the application, whereby document types and applications can evolve separately;

wherein the markup language is XML.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the first and second schemas reside on separate servers.

**II. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:**

Claims 14, 15, 18, 21, 23-25, 36, and 37 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's terminal disclaimer filed 01/16/2009 has been approved. The previous nonstatutory double patenting rejection has been withdrawn.

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in independent Claims 14, 24 and 36.

The features:

- “providing references for locating the first schema and second schema in a second electronic document, wherein the second tag is polymorphically used to encode text within the second electronic document; whereby the first and second schemas respectively allow use of the first or second tag and applications and document types that use the first or second tag can evolve separately; wherein the markup language is XML” (as cited in independent Claim 14);

Art Unit: 2176

- “means for polymorphically extending a definition of the first tag by use of a second schema residing on the computer network system, the second schema defining a second tag by reference to the first tag that incorporates in the second schema the plurality of elements from the markup language and by including additional elements, including using the second tag in a location otherwise used by the first tag in the document instance; and means for importing reference to the second schema into the document instance, wherein the markup language is XML” (as cited in independent Claim 25); and
- providing references for locating the first schema and second schema in the first electronic document, wherein the first and second tags are polymorphically available to encode text within the first electronic document, whereby an application designed to work with the first tag in the first schema can process the text encoded using the second tag in the second schema, when the encoding is within the scope of the first tag, without modifying the application, whereby document types and applications can evolve separately, wherein the markup language is XML” (as cited in independent Claim 36),

when taken in the context of the claims as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

### **Contact information**

- III. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business



Art Unit: 2176

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Maikhanh Nguyen/

Examiner, Art Unit 2176

/Laurie Ries/

Primary Examiner

Technology Center 2100

8 May 2009